

M E R C A T O R:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Tuesday, December 22. to Thursday, December 24. 1713.

IT is not half so wonderful that the Dutch should set all their Engines and Wheels to work to Bubble us out of the French Trade, as it is that we should be capable of being so easily brought into that unbaited Hook. Wisdom says, in vain is the Net spread in the sight of any Bird; but this Net is spread in our sight, and we run into it with our Eyes open.

The last *MERCATOR* promised to give you a Specimen of the Dutch Intrigue, to bring the poor Deluded People into a popular Opposition against the Treaty, and to quote a Speech made by one Coopmanschap a Dutchman, to a certain Society of Men in London.

This Coopmanschap is a kind of a Representative of the Nation he belongs to; and the Author brings him in as a great Dutch Merchant, who having been formerly Partner with one Count Tariff a Frenchman, and hearing that England was entering into a Correspondence with this *TARIFF*, and knowing that if they did so, he should lose all that Gainful Trade which he had made between them; he comes over to England, and applying himself to a great Club of Citizens, with whom, it seems, he had held a wicked Correspondence before for carrying on other publick Mischiefs against the publick Interest of England, he, at a general Meeting of the Club not far from the Exchange, appears and makes them a long Speech: The Particulars are too long for this Paper; and the Book being publicly known, and sold about Town, it needs not that it be repeated here. But after having recited, by way of acknowledgment, the many Services the Club had always done him, and especially, 'For that not regarding their Country, their Liberty, their present Advantages, or their Posterity, they had with a steady and unshaken Zeal always prefer'd his Interest to THEIR OWN: Then descending to Particulars, (viz.) 'That they had carried on a Partnership with him without insisting on his paying in his due proportion of Stock: 'That they had been very friendly to him in not too strictly examining his Accounts: That they had frankly furnished the greatest part of the Ships in the said Partnership, without Charging him for his share of the Freight: and the like. And after having thus reckoned up all the kind things the Party had done for him, (for which the Reader is refer'd to the Speech it self) he goes on.

'He assured them in the next place, that as he had served them with all his usual Sincerity in these and many other occasions; so he was still ready to assist and stand by them in their private Concerns, and to renew the Partnership they had carried on so long, and which they had so successfully been engaged in, for as many Years as they should think fit: that especially he was ready to support them and assist them in

'any Measures which they should think proper against their Landlady, whether to expose, ridicule, and affront her Person and the Management of her Family and Household, or to oppose any of her Designs, however laudable and useful for the good of her Tenants; (at which words the Assembly, in token of Gratitude, and accepting the Offer, stood all up) and Mynheer making another Dutch Bow went on:—

'He told them, that he was still very ready to settle Matters of Trade for this part of the World, if they would but stick fast to their old Maxims of leaving it all to him, and being willing that his Interest should be secured first, and then their own brought in as subservient; and finally, he profess himself ready to require their Kindness at all times, if he might but enjoy the Benefit of their Trade, exclusive of themselves, as he had done.

'He then came to the main Point: He told them, that he understood there was a private Clandestine Negotiation on foot between Merchant Traffick of London, and his Partner Henry Woollpack of the West, for a Partnership with Count Tariff of France, the Articles whereof, if they came to be made Effectual, would be very prejudicial to his Affairs, and that therefore he desired their utmost Assistance against it: He told them, that this Count Tariff was always Partner with him, and had left him without warning; that it would disable him from driving his Trade, and consequently from buying so many Woollen Manufactures here as he used to do, because Count Tariff would take them here himself; and, in short, he told them that if they had any Respect for him, or expected any of his Assistance in their other secret Affairs, which he had always been their Friend in, they must stand his Friend at this time, and prevent the Articles of this Partnership from being MADE EFFECTUAL.

'Then he fell to railing at Count Tariff, told them he was a Frenchman and a Papist, and a tricking false Fellow that never kept his word with any Body; that he was a Bankrupt, and not able to make good what he had promised; that he would crowd them with his own Goods, such as Wine, Brandy, Silk, Linen, Paper, &c. but would take little or nothing of them in return, only give them large Promises and good Words, with which he would feed them till the Partnership was settled and made effectual, and then he would laugh at them; and with much more of this kind he ended his Speech.

Having thus given you a Specimen of the Dutchman's Speech, it cannot but be something to the purpose to hear the Chairman's Answer in the Name of the whole Club, as far as it relates to this Affair of Count Tariff, (viz.) the Treaty of Commerce; part of which is as follows:

The



Chairman of the Club is brought in making a
to the Dutchman in Answer to what he had
ed to them; in which Speech, after having said
Things relating to their secret Party Correspon-
Things the *MERCATOR* meddles not with,
comes to the Affair of Commerce, and then he talks
Mynheer thus:

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'He told him, tho' the Society had been disappointed
'in every thing they had undertaken for him, and were
'at this time but in mean Circumstances; their Chara-
'cter declining, their Reputation very low, and most
'of their valuable Men gone off from them to the In-
'terest of their Landlady, having by her Advice joined
'in a new Partnership with Merchant *Moderation*, an
'old and known Enemy to the whole Society; yet as
'their Spirit (*Malice*) was not in the least abated, and
'that they had yet Members enough left to make a great
'Effort (*Noise*) in his Favour, so he might depend
'upon their utmost Assistance in every thing whatsoever
'that he desired; in Return whereof, they hoped *Myn-
'heer* would continue to be their constant Friend and
'Correspondent in the same manner as he had done
'before; adding, that they had one farther Request to
'make to him, (*viz.*) That whereas they might proba-
'bly find it needful sometimes, in carrying on his In-
'trigues, or their own, to make themselves obnoxious
'to the Law, and which was likely to be very frequent,
'to fly from Justice, run away from Bail, and *such like*,
'he would engage to receive their Criminals, and make
'them Burgeses in his Cities, and free Denizens, Natu-
'ralizing them among the Servants of his Family, as
'would be most suitable to them, and to him also, whe-
'ther they were felonious-Bankrupts, Murderers of
'Nobility, Duellers, Scots Libellers, Traytors, or what
'kind of Offenders soever.

'That as to the new Treaty of Partnership with
'Count *Tariff*, he told him there was no doubt but the
'Club would espouse his Cause, right or wrong, against
'that Frenchman and all his Attempts; that the Name
'of French would make it exceeding Popular, and they
'would presently spread it over the whole Nation;
'that he was a Pick-pocket, a Conjuror, and dealt with
'the Devil, and they doubted not to have him Mob'd
'if he came hither.

'He told him, that as to Alderman *Traffick*, he knew
'he was an eminent Dealer, and understood Trade, and
'perhaps he might be steady as to his old Notions of
'the Liberty of Trade; but as for honest *Woollpack*, he
'knew him well enough, that he was a well-meaning
'Country-Fellow, but very Passionate, and Ignorant,
'and he did not question but the Club would find Means
'to Impose upon his Judgment, by telling him a hun-
'dred Stories and Shams of this Frenchman Count
'*Tariff*; and if they did but once make him believe

'that Count *Tariff* would take off none of his Manu-
'factures, he would go stark Mad, and break off the
'new Partnership at once, or quarrel with Alderman
'*Traffick* his Partner, and refuse to go on with the
'Trade; concluding upon the whole, in the Name of
'the Society, that he might depend upon it, they were
'all Mynheer's hearty Friends more than their own.

This may give any enquiring Person a true Light in-
to this part of the Affair, and shew them first upon
what Principle the wily Dutch, our constant Rivals in
Trade, began their Opposition to our Commerce with
France; and then How our People here came to be
drawn in to act against their own Interest, and to op-
pose a Trade which as it is now regulated it can be no
body's Interest to oppose but the Hollanders.

The *MERCATOR* is arming no body against
the Dutch as a Nation; Alliances and Confederacies
with the States-General are without question always our
National Interest, and a War with the Dutch is what
should be the last of that kind a British Subject would
desire. But the *MERCATOR* must be excused for
saying he values the Friendship of the Dutch in any
thing more than in Trade, and thinks we may preserve
our Regard to them as States and Allies without giving
up our Commerce to them, as shall be farther explain-
ed in the Pursuit of this part of the Subject when it
comes to be spoken of again: Mean time, our Friend
Backstroke, who has desired Leave to answer by Letter
some Insolencies offered by the Oppsers of the Treaty
of Commerce in relation to the OLD SCHEME, ha-
ving sent two or three long Letters on that Subject,
which he desires may be made publick: the *MERCA-
TOR* gives himself a Recess for a few Days, and gives
his Place to this Second; only assuring the Opposers,
that this Gentleman is so far from being the same with
the *MERCATOR*, according to the late Custom of
Letter-Printers, that he says he is ready to appear on
any reasonable Summons to own what he has writ, and
justify the Contents of it.

When the *MERCATOR* writes again, ye shall
have Notice of it distinctly enough.

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Memoirs of Count *Tariff*, &c. By which the whole
Secret History of the Refusing the late Treaty of
Commerce is laid open, and the Grounds and Reasons
of the Whigs Opposing it, are plainly discovered.
Sold by John Morphew, near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s.



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